

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A dried photosensitizer-carrier composition, comprising:
 - (a) a mixture of a polypyrrolic macrocyclic photosensitizer and at least one triblock copolymer carrier agent; and
 - (b) at least one solid support physically associated with said mixture; wherein said composition forms a complex between said photosensitizer and said carrier upon hydration with an aqueous medium, said complex is in the form selected from the group consisting of micelles, vesicles, emulsion, gel and matrix.
2. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said support is an endo-support, and said photosensitizer and carrier agent mixture is deposited on said endo-support.
3. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein said composition forms, upon hydration with an aqueous based medium, a complex that is micellar.
4. (currently amended) A method for formulating a dried mixture of photosensitizer and carrier agent, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) mixing together a polypyrrolic macrocyclic photosensitizer and at least one triblock copolymer carrier agent in liquid form in contact with at least one solid support; and
 - (b) physically associating the mixture of photosensitizer and carrier agent with said solid support upon drying said mixture; wherein said mixture forms a complex between said photosensitizer and said carrier upon hydration with an aqueous medium, said complex is in the form selected from the group consisting of micelles, vesicles, emulsion, gel and matrix.
5. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein said carrier agent in liquid form comprises the agent dissolved in an organic solvent.
6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein said solvent is volatile.

7. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein said support is an endo-support, and said photosensitizer and carrier agent mixture is deposited on said endo-support upon solidification.

8. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said solid support is soluble or hydratable in an aqueous based medium.

9. (original) The composition of claim 8 wherein said solid support is selected from the group consisting of a monosaccharide, disaccharide, aminoglycoside, and derivatives thereof.

10. (original) The composition of claim 9 wherein the disaccharide is selected from the group consisting of maltose, lactose, sucrose and trehalose.

11. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein said photosensitizer is selected from the group consisting of porphyrins, pyrroles, tetrapyrrolic compounds, expanded pyrrolic macrocycles and their derivatives.

12. (previously presented) The composition of claim 11 wherein said porphyrin derivative is selected from the group consisting of green porphyrins, tetrahydrochlorins, chlorins bacteriochlorins, isobacteriochlorins, pyropheophorphides, purpurins, texaphyrins, phenothiaziniums, phthalocyanines, naphthalocyanines, porphycenes, pheophorbides, sapphyrins and texaphyrins.

13. (original) The composition of claim 12 wherein said green porphyrin is selected from the group consisting of benzoporphyrin derivatives (BPD).

14. (original) The composition of claim 13 wherein said BPD is selected from a group consisting of A ring, B ring, C ring, and D ring derivatives.

15. (previously presented) The composition of claim 14 wherein said BPD ring derivative is selected from a group consisting of benzoporphyrin derivative monoacid ring A (BPD-MA), A-EA6, A-B3, benzoporphyrin derivative monoacid ring B (BPD-MB), B-EA6, and B-B3.

16. (original) The composition of claim 7 wherein said endo-support is non-hydratable in an aqueous based medium.

17. (previously presented) The composition of claim 16 wherein said endo-support is a polymeric compound.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein said endo-support is removed after hydration of the photosensitizer-carrier mixture.

19. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said support is an exo-support, and said photosensitizer and said carrier are encapsulated by said exo-support.

20. (previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein said carrier agent is a poloxamer.

21. (previously presented) The composition of claim 20 wherein said triblock copolymer carrier is selected from the group consisting of symmetric A-B-A and non-symmetric A-B-A' triblock copolymers.

22. (previously presented) The composition of claim 21 wherein said triblock copolymer is polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene block copolymer of the formula $\text{HO}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O})_a(\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O})_b(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O})_c\text{H}$, where a and c are independently 1-150 units and b= 10-200 units with the overall molecular weight ranging from 1,000 to 50,000 daltons.

23. (previously presented) The composition of claim 22 wherein said triblock copolymer is selected from a group consisting of poloxamers wherein $a = c = 1$ to 150 units and $b = 10$ -200 units

24. (previously presented) The composition of claim 23 wherein said poloxamer is selected from a group consisting of poloxamer 403 (P123), poloxamer 407 (F127), poloxamer 402 (L122), poloxamer 181 (L61), poloxamer 401 (L121), poloxamer 185 (P65), poloxamer 188 (F68) and poloxamer 338 (F108).

25. (previously presented) The composition of claim 24 wherein said poloxamer is selected from a group consisting of poloxamer 181 (L61), poloxamer 401 (L121), and poloxamer 402 (L122).

26. (previously presented) A method of preparing a hydrated photosensitizer-carrier complex comprising preparing a dried mixture of photosensitizer and carrier agent by the method of claim 4 and hydrating said mixture of photosensitizer and carrier agent with an aqueous based medium to produce a hydrated photosensitizer-carrier complex.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein said complex is micellar.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein said hydrated mixture of photosensitizer, carrier agent, and solid support is further processed to a reduced size or further formulated.

29. (canceled)

30. (original) A method for conducting photodynamic therapy comprising: administering a photosensitizer and copolymer complex produced by hydration of the composition of claim 1 to a subject in need of photodynamic therapy; and irradiating said subject to activate said photosensitizer.